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## Community updated on Weed and Seed

February 15, 2008

Last September, Lafayette received a five-year, \$1 million grant from the U.S. Department of Justice, aimed at crime reduction and prevention and community rehabilitation.

Officials on Thursday held a public meeting to update the community on developments of the program, called Weed and Seed.

"The goal ... is to give the community some hope," said Adam Murphy, the city's Weed and Seed site coordinator. "It's more than just empty talk. It's progress."

Here are some highlights of Thursday's meeting:

- Lafayette received a \$680,000 grant, funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and administered by the state, to help 20 chronically homeless individuals.

The grant will give rental assistance for five years, plus related services, such as employment assistance and mental health services.

- On the crime reduction side, the Lafayette Police Department increased drug arrests by 22 percent from 2006 to 2007. The agency plans for officers to work 400 more overtime details, mainly in the Weed and Seed downtown area.
- The Families and Schools Together, or FAST, program will soon be initiated at Miller Elementary School and likely start in other Lafayette elementary and middle schools in the targeted area.

FAST will enroll 20 to 30 families for the eight-week program, aimed at building relationships between schools and parents and between parents and children.

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